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1992/03/16

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AN: 0920251-0484

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ACTION NEA-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-15 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 CIP-01 COME-00 CTM
DODE-00 DOEE-00 EAP-01 EB-01 INRE-00 INR-01 JUSE-00
L-03 ADS-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OES-09 OMB-01 PM-01
SSO-00 STR-20 TRSE-00 TST-02 T-01 USIE-00 058W
----- 180322 161320Z 44
0 161310Z MAR 92
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9997
INFO ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY BEIJING

TEL AVIV 03847

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PARM, MCAP, MASS, ETTC, IS, US, CI
SUBJECT: MOUNTING REACTION TO ALLEGATIONS OF ISRAELI
ARMS TRANSFER

REF: TEL AVIV 3784

1. [REDACTED] ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: THE ISSUE OF ALLEGED ISRAELI TRANSFERS
AMERICAN ARMS TECHNOLOGY TO THIRD COUNTRIES HAS
CONTINUED TO DOMINATE THE MEDIA HERE MARCH 16. WHILE
RESERVING COMMENT -- BEYOND AN OFFICIAL DENIAL OF THE
ALLEGATIONS -- PM SHAMIR HAS ALLOWED OTHER OFFICIALS TO
[REDACTED]

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SCORE THE USG FOR THE LEAKS. END SUMMARY.

A BLANKET DENIAL

3. ISRAELI OFFICIALS HAVE ISSUED BLANKET DENIALS OF
U.S. MEDIA STORIES ALLEGING IMPROPER ARMS TRANSFERS BY
ISRAEL OF AMERICAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY.

United States Department of State
Office of FOI, Privacy, & Classification Review
Review Authority: GEIRON, W.
Date: 04/15/96
Case ID: 9201601

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[REDACTED]

DEPUTY MINISTER NETANYAHU TERMED THE REPORTS "TOTALLY FALSE." EHUD GOL, PM SHAMIR'S SPOKESMAN, SAID THAT THEY WERE "GROULESS."

"AN ANTI-ISRAELI CAMPAIGN"

4. WHILE PM SHAMIR AND OTHER SENIOR MINISTERS HAVE AVOIDED COMMENT ON THE LEAKS BEHIND THE STORIES, SECOND RANK OFFICIALS HAVE TEED OFF ON THE USG. LIKUD MK ELIYAHU BEN ELISSAR, CHAIRMAN OF THE KNESSET FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE COMMITTEE, ALLEGED THAT THE WEAPONS DIVERSIONS ALLEGATIONS WERE PART OF A USG EFFORT TO UNSEAT LIKUD IN THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS. NETANYAHU DESCRIBED THE LEAKS AS PART OF "AN OBVIOUS CAMPAIGN AIMED AT DENIGRATING ISRAEL AND SABOTAGING ITS RELATIONS WITH THE U.S." NETANYAHU WAS NOT SURE WHO WAS BEHIND THE CAMPAIGN; BUT HEALTH MINISTER OLPERT HAD "NO DOUBT" SUCH THINGS WERE NOT RAISED WITHOUT THE WILL OF A SENIOR FIGURE IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

5. ON BACKGROUND, ISRAELI OFFICIALS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

6. COMMENT: PM SHAMIR'S REACTION TO THE ARMS TRANSFER ISSUE THUS FAR HAS BEEN TWO-TRACK. WHILE RESERVING COMMENT -- BEYOND AN OFFICIAL DENIAL OF THE ALLEGATIONS -- HE HAS ALLOWED MORE JUNIOR OFFICIALS TO SCORE THE USG FOR THE LEAKS.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

HARRUP